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TEN QUÆRES,

UPON THE

TEN NEW COMMANDEMENTS

OF THE

GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

Officers of the Armies

Decemb. 22. 1659.

[By William Kiffin ?]

NOW

Declaring themselves, The only Supreme Legisers; and Absolute Soveraign Lords of our Three Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, by what just Title from God or Man, we yet understand not, unlesse it be from the * Man of Sin, opposing and exalting himself above all that is called God and worshipped, by his own usurped Authority and Ambition. * 2 Thes. 2, 3, 4.

I WHether the Nobility, Gentry, Ministry, Citizens, Yeomen, and other Freemen of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland* (the Supreme Authority and Legislators of the 3. Nations by the Army-Officers former *Votes*, *Declarations*, *Agreements* of the People, and the *Rumps* too) have not better Reason and Authority to Agree and

Vote, That the Government of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging, shall be in the antient legal, safe, honourable, known way of a KINGDOM, and MONARCHY, by an hereditary lawfull King, according to the Fundamental Laws, Oaths, Protestation, League, Covenant, the Parl. and these Officers former numerous *Declarations*, *Remonstrances*, and *Proposals*, than in the way of an unknown, unborn Utopian *Free-State* and *Commonwealth*; the bare Notion whereof without any conception or production, hath involved us in 11. years dangerous Wars, Confusions, Distractions, Revolutions, without any probability of Ease, Tranquillity, or Settlement?

2. Whether they might not with as good Authority and Reason have agreed, That they will not have God himself, and Jesus Christ (who are not excepted, but included in their Vote,) *to exercise a Kingship in these Nations*; *nor any single Person to exercise the Office of Chief Magistrate over the City of London*, or any other City or Corporation in our 3. Kingdoms: Or the Office of a *General* over any of our *Armies*, or *Admiral* over any of our Fleets; or of a *Colonel* or *Captain* over any *Regiment*, *Troop*, *Company*, *Ship* in the *Armies*, or *Navies* of these Nations; or one *Speaker* to sit in any Parliament, or one *Chairman* in any *Committee*, or one *head* to exercise any authority over the natural bodie of any Officer, Souldier, Man, Woman, Child within their new *Kingless*, *Headless* *Free State and Commonwealth*; As *that they will not have Kingship to be exercised in these Nations*, *nor any single Person* (out of which *Fleetwood*, *Lambert*, & all other maried, double-souled Officers are excepted, being no *single persons*) *to exercise the office of Chief Magistrate over the same?* And whether these Voters have not lost their *heads* or *brains* at least, & passed this Vote out of *pure necessity*, because for the present, their *Chieftains* cannot or dare not claim a *Kingship*, or *Monarchical Protectorship* over us, through others oppositions, though they ambitiously desire it, as well as their deceased ambitious bloudy Tyrant *Oliver*?

‖James 1.8.

3. Whether

3 Whether they had not with better Justice voted; *That there shall be no L. Fleetwood, L. Lambert, L. Desbrow, L. Hewson, &c.* nor any *General Council of Lording lordly Officers* of the Armies of *England, Scotland* and *Ireland, nor* Wallingford House, taking upon them a power which no *Lords House* ever used, to impose Laws, not only on the *Soldiers*, but *Lords, Commons*, and *Freemen* of our whole 3. Nations; *Than that there be no House of Lords, or Peers?* And whether they may not order the *Lords House* at *Westminster*, and all *Lords Houses* within our 3. Realms to be demolished, by the letter of this Vote; and deprive the *Lords* and *Peers* of their hereditary *Mansion-Houses*, Lands, as well as of their *Honors, Peerage*, and *Session* in *Parliaments?*

4. Whether the General Council of *Officers* by their former and late *Instruments, Votes*, and this their *Agreement*, whereby they usurp both the *Legislative* and *Executive* Power over our 3. Nations and Parliaments in the superlative degree, (which no Military Officers or Council under heaven ever did before them in any age or Nation) have not already contradicted this their *Agreement, That the Legislative and Executive power be distinct, and not in the same hands?* And whether either of these 2 Powers ought to be henceforth intrusted in their hands?

5. Whether *Henry Garnet, Guy Faux*, with the rest of the old *Gun-powder-Traytors*, who sate in Counsel together *how to blow up the King, Lords*, and *Parliament* in the 3d. year of King *James*, and all those persons and every one of them, who since the 1. of *October* 1659. have acted and executed any *Treason, Murder, Rape, Robbery or Villany* whatsoever for which they deserve execution at *Tiburne*; may not with as much Authority, Justice, Law, Equity, indemnify themselves and all their Confederates both in their Persons and Estates, for all such things as have bin done by them, or any of them, or by any acting under them in pursuance of their authoritie; as the *Council of Officers and their Committee of Safety can indemnifie one another, and those who have acted under them, for all such things as have been done by them or any of them, in pursuance of the*

* Eccles. 8. 11. Pf. 55. 19, 20, 21.

instructions given them by the Council of Officers? Whether this be not an open in-let and *incouragement to all Treasons and Villanies whatsoever, for these Officers and their Instruments to act new *Treasons* and *Violences* over and over against the *Parliament, King, Lords, Commons, Kingdom, People*, with most daring impudencie, and then to force and procure an *Act of total Indemnity* and *final Oblivion for them*, as to their *Persons and Estates*, when perpetrated and committed?

6. Whether such Persons *as have acted, done or spoken any thing before or since the first day of October, 1659.* for *Charles Stuart* (their * undoubted lawfull King) in pursuance of their Oaths, Vows, Protestation, League, Covenant, the Laws of God and the Realm, the Declarations, Orders, Ordinances, Remonstrances of Parliament, and Army Officers themselves whiles in their *right wits*; do not better deserve an *Act of Indempnity*, and *perpetual Oblivion* both for *Persons and Estates* for all and every *thing and things, acted, done, spoken, ordered, or suffered to be acted or done, with respect to raising of forces, issuing of mony, and proceedings of any kind* for his Service; than all and every of the *Council of Officers of the Army, their Committees of Safety, or any other Person or Persons under them, for all and every thing and things acted, done, spoken, ordered, with respect to raising of forces, levying or issuing monies, proceedings in any Courts of Law, or otherwise*, against the Kings, Parliaments, Lords, Commons, or Rumps Authority, and the known Laws, Liberties of our three Nations? Whether their voting such an *Act of Indempnity* and *perpetual Oblivion* for themselves & their *Confederates* alone, be not an evident Confession and Proclamation of their own *Guilt* and *Treachery* to all the world; and their excepting *of all such who have acted, done, or spoken any thing for or on the behalf of Charles Stuart*, out of their desired *Act of Indempnity* and *Oblivion*, a real Argument & Declaration of their * *innocency, loyalty, and legality* of their actions; and the *Unsaint-like malice, partiality, injustice* of these *guilty* Voters in indempnifying themselves and all their Adherents only against the highest *Treasons* and

1 Jac. c. 1. 3 Jac. c. 1, 4. 7 Jac. c. 6.

* Mat. 6. 14, 15. c. 18. 23, to 35. c. 7. 12.

Rebellions

Rebellions, *Crimes* that possibly can be perpetrated by men; and yet exposing all *Royalists* to the extremity of Justice, (if Delinquents as they doom them) only for their loyalty to their *Liege-Soveraign*? Surely —— *Dat veniam Corvis, vexat censura Columbas*, was never so really verified by any as these gracious *Army Councellors*.

7. Whether their extraordinary zeal & care in providing, *That such who profess Faith in God by Jesus Christ, though differing from the Doctrine, Discipline, and worship publickly held forth, shall not be restrained from, but shall be equally protected and encouraged in the profession of the Faith and exercise of their Religion, so as they abuse not that liberty to the civil injury of others*, doth not open a wide door to all damnable Heresies, Blasphemies, Sects, *Opinions whatsoever*, to the ruine of our Churches and Religion; and give a free toleration, encouragement, and protection to all Jesuits, Popish Priests, Fryers, and Romish Emissaries whatsoever, under the disguises of other Sects, & seperate Congregations, professing Faith in God by Jesus Christ, into which they creep to introduce the *body of Popery* and *Jesuitism* amongst us, both in *Theory* and *Practise*, (as they have done of late years) in a higher degree than ever? Whether any *Doctrine*, *Worship* or *Discipline* can be *said*, *to be publickly held forth*, when all of all sorts *are thus equally protected* and *encouraged* by their *Agreement*. How they can in conscience or Justice in words *provide*, *that this Liberty be not extended to Popery or Prelacy*, when they so freely allow it to all others, though *Heretickes* or *Blasphemers*, far worse than bare *Papists*, or *Prelacy*? And whether their last restriction, *nor to such, as under the Profession of Christ, hold forth and practise Licentiousness*, extends not principally to themselves, who *under the Profession of Christ, hold forth and practise the greatest Licentiousness*, even to act all kind of Treasons, Rebellions, Violences, Rapines, Murders, Plunders, Oppressions, Perjuries, Hypocrisies, Atheistical Impieties, Sacrileges, Treacheries and Villanies, with greater Impudency, Indempnity, and Incorrigibility (after * publick and private seeming Humiliations for them) than they were ever yet acted in the

* This Fleetwood confessed at the Guildhall last week.

the world by men professing *Faith in God by Jesus Christ*, or the true *reformed Religion*?

8. Whether the impoverished, undone people of our three Nations, have not far juster cause and reason to detain the Arrears of pay pretended to be due to most of all the rebellious Officers and Forces of this Commonwealth, (as forfeited by their manifold Treasons, Rebellions, and Mutinies against their Superiours, and obeying only the wills, lusts, orders of their ambitious, mutinous chief Commanders, whose devoted Servants they are) than they thus peremptorily to demand, *That the arrears of pay to the Armies, and Forces of the Commonwealth, now due or incurred to them, or any of them* (though never so treacherous, rebellious to their Lords and Masters the Parliament and people, who must pay them) *be with all convenient speed satisfied and paid*; before their repentance, and declared future obedience to the Parliament and people, whose Servants and Mercinaries they only are and ought to be, in truth?

9. Whether the old secluded Members, Rump, Nobility, Gentry, free people of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, or any free Parliament elected by them, can with honor, justice, or the publick peace, safety, settlement, after so many former and late Rebellions, Treacheries, Perjuries, breaches of Protestations, Covenants, Commissions and Ingagements of all sorts, by the Army and their Officers, condescend to their 9th Law; *That the Armies, Forces and Navies of this Commonwealth, as the same stood upon the 9. of Octob. last, be continued and maintained under the same conduct, as the same stood upon the said 9. day of October, for the security, service, and Peace of this Commonwealth, and not to be disbanded, nor the conduct altered until the cause contended for be secured* (and what that is we know not, unless that the Army-Generals and their Council of Officers may be our only Kings, Lords, and Parliament Legislators; call and dissolve Parliaments at their pleasures, vote & unvote what they will without punishment, and ruine our 3. Nations without opposition) *and the Government of this Commonwealth, as is before proposed, be effectually*

ſeſtually ſeiſed: Be not a moſt unjuſt, unreaſonable command, exempting the Army and Officers from all ſubordination and obedience to any Parliament, Council, or power of the Nation whatſoever? An abſolute impoſing of a perpetual uncontrollable Army, and Iron Yoak of Bondage upon the 3. Nations and their Parliaments galled necks, who muſt only pay and raiſe monies for them, and obey their Preſcriptions? And whether the Officers and Conductors of this Army, who have ſo frequently diſturbed, ſubverted the *Security, Service*, Peace and Settlement of our Nations both heretofore and at preſent, and been ſo treacherous, mutinous, can be *continued undisbanded* for any other end, but only to act over their former *Tragedies* and pranks of Rebellion at their pleaſures, and then force a *New Act of Indemnity and Oblivion* to expiate them, and make themſelves *Monſters* of Treachery, and *Parliaments* the very ſcorn, ſhame, diſhonour of our Nation and the world?

10. Whether their 10th. and laſt Agreement, *That we whoſe names are ſubſcribed, do hereby promiſe and engage by the help of God* (it had been truer, by the aſſiſtance of the Devil, the **Spirit who ruleth in the children of diſobedience*) *to ſtand by and aſſiſt each other in the obtaining of the things before mentioned*, Be not a New Treaſonable Engagement againſt the Lawes, Liberties, Freedom, Privileges, Birthrights of our Nations and Parliaments; in oppoſition to the Cities and Common-Councils Declaration, *Dec.* 20. well deſerving all *paſt arrears*, and *future pay*, *without diſbanding*? Whether thoſe Officers who have ſubſcribed this Engagement, be likely to obſerve it better, than they did their late and former Engagements, *to be true, faithfull, and conſtant to their New Lords and Maſters from whom they received their Commiſſions*? the faith, property of an Army-Officer and Souldier, being now refined to this *Quinteſſence of Atheiſm*; *to be faithleſſe, treacherous, perfidious to all others, and faithfull, loyal unto none, any longer, or further than conſiſts with his own intereſt and ſelf-deſigns*. Whether there can be any probable or lively hope of curing the manifold deſperate Wounds, Fractures, Convulſions, Confuſions in our

*Epheſ. 2. 2.

our expiring Church, State, or of establishing any lasting Peace, Government, Unity or Tranquillity in our distracted Nations, without an impartial restitution of all real Members of our English Parliaments to their antient indubitable Privileges, to meet, sit, vote with all freedom and security, without the least forcible suspension or seclusion? And whether there be any possibility they should thus sit and act, till the prodigious Parliament-interrupting, secluding, securing-dissolving *General Council of Officers of the Army*, be totally dissolved, and the Army in some good measure purged from all *mutinous Innovators*, and *masked Romish Emissaries*? The Lord give them all grace unfeignedly to lament and repent the premised Exorbitances, and this their new *Agreement*, *before they go hence and be seen no more.* Amen.

FINIS.

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